

REMARKS

Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 2, 5 – 13, and 16 – 21 have been canceled. Claims 3, 4, 14, and 15 have been amended and are presented for review.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 3, 4, 14, and 15 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant has therefore:

- rewritten claim 3 in independent form and amended the claim to include the limitations of base claim 1;
- rewritten claim 4 in independent form and amended the claim to include the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 2;
- rewritten claim 14 in independent form and amended the claim to include the limitations of base claim 12; and
- rewritten claim 15 in independent form and amended the claim to include the limitations of base claim 12 and intervening claim 13.

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CONCLUSION

It is submitted that amended claims 3, 4, 14, and 15 are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §§ 112, 102, and 103 and each defines patentable subject matter. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

No fee is believed to be payable with this communication. Nevertheless, should the Examiner consider any fees to be payable in conjunction with this or any future communication, authorization is given to direct payment of such fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would help expedite matters.

Respectfully submitted,


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